

HOUSE No. 2818

By Mrs. Parente of Milford, petition of Marie J. Parente relative to social worker caseloads and service plans. Children and Families.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO SOCIAL WORKER CASELOADS AND SERVICE PLANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The department of social services is hereby directed to require
2 that social workers not be assigned a number of cases greater than
3 the number of cases that the workers are able to carry out and
4 simultaneously fulfill their obligations to provide case plans, peri-
5 odic reviews, home visits, and other duties necessary to providing
6 social services, the number of cases not to exceed a ratio of social
7 workers to caseload of 15 cases, dependent upon the geographic
8 distribution of cases.

9 The department is required to employ an adequate number of
10 trained and qualified social workers, and licensed/certified social
11 workers at the levels of Social Worker A/B and Social Worker C,
12 to evaluate service plans, develop and review appropriate service
13 plans, including development of a plan for each child to assure
14 that he/she receives proper care and that services are provided
15 which are designed to improve conditions in the home from which
16 he/she was removed or to otherwise make possible his or her
17 being placed in the home of a relative, or continuance in foster or
18 adoptive care, such as is related to permanency planning for each
19 child, and to provide social services to families and children. Each
20 service plan must be reviewed as often as necessary, but at least
21 biannually, and must be implemented on a continuous basis, to
22 assure that it is practically related to needs and is being effectively
23 implemented.